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Tubby Favors Tighter Rein On Security

Roger Tubby, Assistant Secretary of State for public affairs, told Congress today he favored much tighter administration of security regulations to prevent publication of such matters as Secretary of State Rusk's memorandum on defense strategy.

Mr. Tubby, the President's choice for the State Department's top press information post, discussed the "leak" of the Rusk memo with members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which later recommended his confirmation.

He said he believed the "chief mischief" in the report published in Monday editions of The Washington Evening Star was the impression given Moscow that an assault on Western Europe would not be met by American nuclear retaliation.

Officials Blamed

Chairman Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas, pressed Mr. Tubby to find ways to halt "premature revelation of matters still in the realm of discussion." Senator Fulbright said such disclosures endangered the Nation and were a "nuisance" to the committee, which spent most of yesterday quizzing Mr. Rusk on his views.

Mr. Tubby said the chief blame for such disclosures lay with Government officers who give out information they should withhold. He linked this to rivalry between the armed services.

Asked by Senator Fulbright why the executive branch could not ascertain the source of such leaks, Mr. Tubby said many of the stories were assembled by reporters from a variety of sources.

Law Covering Leaks

Senator Lausche, Democrat of Ohio, asked Mr. Tubby if there is any law dealing with leaks of information affecting the Nation's security.

The State Department official said the existing law covers only leaks involving classified documents.

Chairman Fulbright suggested that classified labels be applied to memos from the State Department to other executive agencies.

Mr. Tubby said he hopes to have meetings with bureau chiefs and editors of Washington newspapers to discuss handling of stories involving national security.